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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/788,684	02/27/2004	Richard J. Scherer	59419US002	7027
32692	7590	07/13/2005	EXAMINER	
3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY			CHUNG TRANS, XUONG MY	
PO BOX 33427			ART UNIT	
ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427			PAPER NUMBER	
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/788,684

Applicant(s)

SCHERER ET AL.

Examiner

Xuong M. Chung-Trans

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on April 25, 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-51 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 2/27/04 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/04; 4/04; 6/3/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. This is responsive to communication filed on April 25, 2005.
2. In the communication filed April 25, 2005, Applicant's election with traverse of claims 1-16 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the search of the classes appropriate to the elected species and claims 1-16 would include the classes in which the non-elected species and claims 17-51 would be searched. This is not found persuasive because each of the species has different structure and/or subject matter that require further search and require search in different classes.

The election requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

3. This application contains claims 17-51 drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse in the reply dated April 25, 2005. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.
4. Claims 13-14 are objected to because of the following informalities: "the at least on tail" should be changed to - - the continuous strip- -. Appropriate correction is required.
5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramey et al. (USPN 6,146,202).

As per claim 1, Ramey discloses in figs. 1 and 15 an electrical header connector 400 comprising: a header body 402 having an internal surface 422 and an external surface 424, the header body including a plurality of first openings 416 and a plurality of second openings 418 extending from the internal surface to the external surface; and a plurality of shield blades 406 configured for insertion into the plurality of second openings 418, each of the plurality of shield blades having at a first end 462 thereof a generally right angle shielding portion 428 configured to be disposed adjacent to a corresponding one of the pluralities of signal pins 404. Ramey does not explicitly disclose that the first ends 462 of the plurality of shield blades 406 are substantially coplanar with the internal surface 422 of the header body. Ramey does disclose in fig. 15 that the first ends 462 extend from the external surface 424 through throat portions 440, 442 to the internal surface 422. It is unclear how far the first ends 462 extend from the surface 422; however, it is clear to one skilled artisan that a distance extended out from the surface (planar) 422 is related and thus one would consider the first ends 462 and the surface 422 are substantially coplanar. In any event, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to make the first ends 462 extending not too far from the surface 422 and extending far enough to make electrical connection, so that the first ends 462 could consider

substantially coplanar with the surface 422. This is because to compact the header connector and to make such header connector a relatively smaller in size.

As per claims 2-6, Ramey discloses a plurality of signal pins 404 configured for insertion into the plurality of first openings 416 to form an array of pin contacts 426 extending from the internal surface 422 of the header body; wherein the first and second openings 416, 418 are arranged in the header body such that the generally right angle shielding portions 428 of the plurality of shield blades 406 substantially surround the plurality of signal pins 404 to form a coaxial shield around each of the plurality of signal pins; wherein the plurality of signal pins and the plurality of shield blades are retained in the header body by press-fit; wherein the generally right angle shielding portion of each of the plurality of shield blades includes first and second leg portions 430,432 and wherein each of the plurality of second openings 418 in the header body has a generally right angle shape for receiving the generally right angle shielding portion 428 of a shield blade (figs. 15, 15a, 16, and col. 12, line 45 to col. 13, line 45).

As per claim 7, Ramey discloses that each of the plurality of generally right angle second openings 418 includes first and second narrowed throat portions 440,442 dimensioned to engage the first and second leg portions 430,432 of the generally right angle shielding portion 428 of a shield blade to hold the shield blade in place (fig. 16, col. 13, lines 19-33).

As per claims 8-9, Ramey discloses that each of the plurality of generally right angle second openings 418 in the header body includes a central portion 434 coupled to the first and second end portions 436,438 by the first and second narrowed throat

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portions 440,442; the central portion and the first and second end portions of each of the plurality of generally right angle second openings are shaped to provide an air gap 444 surrounding the generally right angle shielding portion of a shield blade (fig. 16, col. 13, lines 19-37).

As per claims 10-12, Ramey discloses that each of the plurality of shield blades 406 has a second end 464 thereof extending beyond the external surface of the header body, the second end configured for engagement with a printed circuit board 34; wherein the plurality of shield blades 406 are formed in a continuous strip of material; wherein the continuous strip of material forming the plurality of shield blades further comprises at least one tail 448 configured for engagement with a printed circuit board 34. (figs. 15, 15a, 16, and col. 12, line 45 to col. 13, line 65).

As per claim 13, Ramey discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for one tail for every two shield blades. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have one tail for every two shield blades in order to save material.

As per claims 14-16, Ramey discloses that the continuous strip of the shield blades comprises a plurality of tails spaced along the continuous strip of material forming the plurality of shield blades; wherein the plurality of tails are electrically connected to a common ground (ground trace in pcb 34); wherein at least a portion of the plurality of shield blades are formed in a continuous strip of material (figs. 15, 15a, 16, and col. 12, line 45 to col. 13, line 65).

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Xuong M. Chung-Trans whose telephone number is (571) 272-2002. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 extension 33.. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Xuong M. Chung Trans', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Xuong M. Chung Trans
Patent Examiner
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